SECRET

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Intelligence Community Staff

DCI/ICS 83-3390
23 May 1983

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: SIG(I) Committee on Priorities

FROM:

Executive Secretary, SIG(I)

SUBJECT: NITs of Current Interest -- 1983

The attached is for your use in developing NITs of Current Interest for 1983. Please note that your response is requested no later than 1 July 1983. (U)

25X1

Attachment:
    National Intelligence Topics dtd 19 May 83

THIS MEMORANDUM IS UNCLASSIFIED
WHEN REMOVED FROM ATTACHMENT

SECRET

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

1 9 MAY 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: SIG(I) Committee on Priorities

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Topics (U)

REFERENCE: "Report for the SIG(I) Committee on Intelligence Production
                      and on Intelligence Priorities," dated 26 April 1983

1. The 1982 NITs of Current Interest served as a reference point for the production of a substantial amount of finished intelligence on subjects of policy concern. This intelligence product, insofar as it addressed the 1982 NITs, has been reported to you in the quarterly reports to the SIG(I) Committee on Priorities. The last of these reports is referenced above and was provided to you under separate cover by the SIG(I) Executive Secretary for review prior to the 11 May SIG(I) Committee meeting. (S)

2. In preparation for publishing the 1983 NITs of Current Interest, I ask that each of the policy elements represented on the Committee provide me a list of the five most important questions that should be of priority concern to the Intelligence Community during the period July 1983 to July 1984. The number of questions from each of you has been reduced this year in order to reduce the resulting total number of topics, and to focus the list more precisely on those critical areas anticipated during the coming year. As agreed at the 11 May meeting, each policy element will also indicate the time frame in which a response is needed by assigning each question either a Category $\underline{A}$ or $\underline{B}$ designator (see Attachment 1 for definitions of these categories). The questions should be structured in a format (see Attachment 2) that will facilitate their integration into a consolidated list of new NITs and will provide intelligence producers a more specific focus for production planning and scheduling. (S)

3. I would like to have your response by 1 July, with a SIG(I) Committee meeting on 15 July for review and final approval of the consolidated list of NITs, which will be issued in late July or early August. (See Attachment 3, "NIT Schedule and Actions," for follow-on actions.) Changes, particularly additions, may be made to the new NITs at any time during the forthcoming year if you believe there is an urgent need to do so. Requests for modifications should include the rationale and be forwarded to the IPC Staff for my review and action. (S)

CL BY Signer
DECL OADR
DERIV FM Multiple

SECRET

4. I will greatly appreciate your cooperation and also welcome any ideas you may have on other ways for enhancing producer-consumer interaction. Your inputs for the 1983 NITs of Current Interest and any comments concerning the NIT process should be forwarded to _____ (Room 2F21 CIA HQ), my action officer for this effort. If you have any questions, Dan can be contacted on _____

25X1
25X1

/S/ John N. McMahon
John N. McMahon

Attachments:
as stated

Distribution:
Office of the Vice President (attn: P. Hughes)
Office of the Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
  (attn: K. deGraffenreid)
Office of the Under Secretary of State (attn: T. Thorne)
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (attn: J. Thomas)
Office of the Under Secretary of Treasury (attn: D. Mulholland)
Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce (attn: D. Peterson)
Office of the Under Secretary of Energy (attn: J. Hatfield)
Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (attn: P. Oleson)
Office of the Director, Intelligence Community Staff (attn:⬜)   25X1
R. Kerr, Chairman, Intelligence Producers Council
⬜ Executive Secretary, SIG(I) Committee   25X1
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Executive Registry
IPC Staff Files
DDI/IPCStaff⬜ (13 May 83)   25X1

SECRET

ATTACHMENT I

Categorization of the NITs

The categorization process is not an effort to prioritize the NIT questions, rather it is an attempt to reflect the policy relevance and time sensitivity of specific NIT issues. With that objective in mind, SIG(I) principals agreed on 11 May that each question submitted for the new NITs be assigned a Category A or B designator. These categories are defined below:

—Category A topics are those that are of immediate concern to the consumer given current policy developments and the need for information and analysis within the next six months. They would include questions that are specific in nature and require a Community response (e.g., response could be a typescript memorandum, SNIE, "Fast-Track" IIM) within a six month period. Such topics, if not responded to by the Community, will be retained in the existing NITs until a new set of NITs is approved by the SIG(I) Committee in June of each year unless the sponsors of the topics recommend their deletion. If Community products relevant to specific topics have been published, consumers who sponsored those topics will indicate, at the semiannual meeting (i.e., January of each year) of the SIG(I) Committee, whether such products have satisfied the question and should be deleted from the NITs or whether the question remains substantially unanswered and, consequently, should be retained as a valid information requirement. (C)

—Category B topics are those that warrant special concern because of their relevance to US policy strategy and interests in the near term (six to 12 months) and require additional analysis and reporting to support policy decisions during that time frame. Such topics equate to those concerns that would be addressed by the Intelligence Community in products such as IIMs, SNIEs, NIEs, or departmental assessments. If the topics have not been satisfactorily answered during the time frame of the existing NITs but are of continuing interest to the consumer, they may be submitted as information requirements for the next annual issuance of the NITs.

SECRET

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

NIT Schedule and Actions

Date	Action
May 1983	Chairman, SIG(I) Committee on Intelligence Priorities requests each principal to provide a list of the five most important questions that should be of priority concern to the Intelligence Community over the next year (e.g., July 83-July 1984) and an indication as to when a response to each is required.
1 July	SIG(I) Committee principals provide inputs requested by Chairman, SIG(I) Committee to IPC Staff for consolidation into a new list of NITs.
15 July	SIG(I) Committee on Intelligence Priorities meets to approve new list of NITs.
Late July or early August	DDCI issues new NITs with a restatement of their purpose and an explanation of the categorization of the NITs in accordance with the time urgency of the consumer's need for intelligence support.
October	IPC Staff, based on inputs from producers, identifies for SIG(I) Committee principals those NIT questions on which available data is insufficient to enable the Community to prepare a responsive product in the coming year.
January	SIG(I) Committee on Intelligence Priorities meets to discuss report on Intelligence Community's responsiveness to the NITs (focus of report will be on Community production responses to Category A topics—questions requiring a Community response within six months).
May	Chairman, SIG(I) Committee on Intelligence Priorities disseminates to Committee principals a final progress report (Focus on Category B topics—questions requiring a Community response within six to 12 months—and a summary of NIT questions fully addressed in Community production) on the Community's responsiveness to the existing NITs and a request for new inputs for the next issuance of NITs.
June	(SIG(I) Committee principals provide inputs requested by Chairman, SIG(I) Committee to IPC Staff for consolidation with a new list of NITs.

SECRET

June–July	SIG(I) Committee on Intelligence Priorities meets to approve new list of NITs
July	DDCI issuance of new NITs

SECRET